GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:395
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
RECRUITMENT OF SCOUTS TO PLUG INFILTRATION
GANTA SRINIVASA RAO

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence has a proposal to recruit Scouts from villages to plug infiltration across the Line of Control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had recruited Scouts from villages earlier;

(d) whether such recruitment helped to realise the desired intention for which they have been recruited on earlier occasions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e): The Scout Battalions such as Ladakh Scouts, Garhwal Scouts, Kumaon Scouts and Dogra Scouts are regular battalions forming part of the Indian Army. The personnel for such battalions are recruited locally, to capitalise on their knowledge of language and familiarity with terrain and are deployed in respective regions along our Northern borders.